(b) According to provisional figures, India's exports during April—September 1991 amounted to approximately Rs. 18711, crores.

(c) Yes, Sir. Through Eximscrips, import of all raw materials and components, barring import of sensitive items such as Petroleum and Petroleum products, Fertilizers, etc. were linked to export performance. Moreover, the Eximscrips are freely transferable and hence command a premium in excess of 20 per cent. This is a built-in incentive for exporters.

India's Trade with USSR in certain commodities

383. DR. YELMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Soviet Union is buying items like tobacco, cashewnuts and the like from India under rupee payment and re-exporting these to India's traditional western customers and thereby depriving India of hard currency; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to stop this switch trading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Trade Agreement with USSR clearly provides that the goods exported from the Republic of India to the USSR and from the USSR to the Republic of India, are meant for use in USSR and India respectively and shall not be re-exported to any other country, unless specifically agreed upon between the competent authorities of the two sides. Government had received reports alleging that certain agricultural exports from India were being diverted by the importing organisations.

As a pre-emptive measure certain steps have been taken in the case of exports of various agricultural items. These include:

(i) Export benefits were to be recommended only after the exporter had produced a certificate issued by a recognised authority in the importing country that the goods had actually reached;

(ii) The provisions whether in terms of quantity or in value terms—laid down in the Trade Plan were not to be exceeded; and

(iii) Exports to the Rupee payment areas countries should as far as possible be in either Indian vessels or in the vessels of the importing country and use of intermediate third country vessels avoided.

If any specific instance of violation of the Agreement comes to the notice of the Government, the matter would be enquired into.

Savings schemes operational in the country

384. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the saving schemes under operation at present in the country;

(b) the total collections made during the last three years, scheme-wise and state-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in the collections under these schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) the state-wise expenditure incurred during the period on each scheme; and

(f) the steps being taken to boost collections through these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Savings Schemes under operation are as follows:

1. Post Office Savings Account.
2. Post Office Time Deposit, (1 year, 2 year, 3 year and 5 year) account.
3. Post Office Recurring Deposit Account.
4. National Savings Scheme, 1987.
5. Post Office Monthly Income Account.
6. Indira Vikas Patra.
7. Kisan Vikas Patra.
8. National Savings Certificates (VIII Issue).
9. Public Provident Fund.
10. Deposit Scheme for Retiring Government Employees, 1989.
11. Deposit Scheme for Retiring Employees of Public Sector Companies, 1991.

(b) The information is given in annexures

[*See* Appendix CLXI, Annexure No. 8]

(c) and (d) There was no decline in over all collections during the last three years.

(e) The accounts are not maintained schemewise/statewise.

(f) The steps taken to boost the collections include increase in interest rates, extension of fiscal concessions, publicity measures etc.

Interest on National Savings Scheme

385. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interest on the deposits in National Savings Scheme continues to accrue even after the amount is not withdrawn on maturity;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to allow the interest to accrue after maturity, to encourage savings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There is a lock in period of 3 years. But there is no fixed maturity period thereafter. So long as a person does not make a withdrawal he will continue to earn interest at 11 per cent annum on the balance including the interest credited to the account.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Inclusion of working capital under latest investment policy for small Enterprises

386. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reconsidered inclusion of working capital under latest policy measures for tiny enterprises under enhanced ceiling of Rs. 5 lakhs irrespective of location of the units in order to enlarge the flow of assistance and facilitate growth of employment;

(b) whether it is a fact that by inclusion of working capital in the investment limit of tiny sector, country would witness higher growth rate of employment;

(c) if so, what would be the promoter's contribution for tiny sector;